Disparity between rural and urban women employees in wages

3194. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study by the National Sample Survey Organisation, it has been found that there is wide disparity between rural and urban women employees in regard to wages and salaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any corrective measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per National Sample Survey Organisation report 2004-05, the difference of wages and salaries between rural and urban women employees is Rs. 67.66. The average wages/salaries of a rural and urban women employee per day are Rs. 85.53 and Rs. 153.19 respectively. In the rural areas, women are predominantly working in agriculture and related activities which are not very highly paid whereas in urban areas, women are working in different sectors including services and other organized sectors where the wages are higher. Therefore this disparity in wages between rural and urban women could be attributed to difference in the nature of activities carried out by women in these areas.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There are no such proposal under consideration at present.

PF assurance scheme for workers of unorganised sector

3195. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government on the lines of the State Government of West Bengal would launch an assisted scheme of Provident Fund for unorganised workers for both employed and self-employed workers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the break-up of total workers who would be benefited by the scheme, State-wise;

(d) how much financial outlay is proposed for the said purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not taking up initiatives to protect the workers of unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Central Government has taken steps to provide social security cover to both employed and self-employed workers in the unorganised sector, *inter-alia*, through the schemes given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Central Government is concerned about the social security needs of certain categories of unorganised sector workers who may be marginally above the poverty line. Possibilities of formulating schemes for provident fund for both employed and self-employed